REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be reexamined.

The December 14, 2006, Office Action ("Office Action") rejected Claims 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the disclosed invention was deemed inoperative and therefore lacks utility. Claims 20-26 have all been amended by amending independent Claim 20 to recite that instructions on the computer-executable medium are "computer-executable instructions." Applicants submit that this amendment overcomes the rejections of Claims 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and, thus, this rejection will not be discussed further.

Claims 1-9 and 20-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0169764 ("Kincaid et al."). Claims 1-9 and 20-26 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0177069 ("Li et al."). Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that all the remaining claims in this application are clearly allowable in view of the teachings of the cited and applied references.

Prior to discussing in detail why applicants believe that all of the remaining claims in this application are allowable, a brief description of the disclosed subject matter and brief descriptions of the teachings of the cited and applied references are provided. The following discussions of the disclosed subject matter and the cited and applied references are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, these discussions are provided to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office better appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

Disclosed Subject Matter

A method and computer-readable medium containing instructions for facilitating a search for content from disparate resources is disclosed. A unified search entry interface is displayed to

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capture search terms. Before searches are conducted, relevant resources are selected from a plurality of disparate search resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term. The relevant resources are normalized. In one exemplary embodiment, the relevant importance of a search term occurring in each of the relevant resources is determined and the occurrence of a search term in each of the relevant resources is weighed in accordance with the relevant importance. The disparate results obtained from searching for occurrences of the search term in the normalized relevant disparate resources are blended. In one exemplary embodiment, blending the disparate results includes ranking the results by the weight of the occurrence of the search term, displaying the ranked results by a category associated with the resource, and displaying the locations in which search terms occurred in comparable positions within each category.

Before searches are conducted, the relevant resources may be prescreened and at least one relevant resource selected. Prescreening reduces the number and length of searches thus saving computing time and resources.

U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0169764 (Kincaid et al.)

Kincaid et al. purportedly discloses a system and method for performing domain specific knowledge based metasearches. A metasearch engine is one that accesses a plurality of generic search engines while simultaneously accessing publication-based databases and sequence databases, as well as in-house proprietary databases. No prescreening of the sources of data is provided prior to the searches. A data mining module is also provided for organizing the raw data obtained from the metasearch. A search results collection browser may also be provided for analyzing current browsing patterns of the user for developing weighting factors.

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<u>U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0177069 (Li et al.)</u>

Li et al. purportedly discloses a search system for a database that includes records having multiple disparate types of media. The search system supports queries that include different types of search criteria and use a fuzzy logic method to provide a way to combine the results of different types of search criteria. The fuzzy logic method also allows confidence levels entered by the user for search criteria to be considered in combining results. The fuzzy logic method is applied to the results of the searches.

<u>Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 20-26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Based on Kincaid et al.</u>

Remarks accompanying the rejection of Claim 1 state that Kincaid et al. discloses "determining at least one relevant resource from a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered in the unified search entry interface (See paragraphs 0005, 0010, 0017-0019, 0064-0067, and abstract)." While applicants respectfully disagree, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, this recitation has been revised to read: "prior to conducting the search, determining relevant resources. . . ." Kincaid et al. does not teach "prior to conducting the search, determining relevant resources. . . ." Rather, Kincaid et al. teaches performing metasearches using multiple search engines, combining the results of the search engines, and data mining the results. Performing data mining on the results of a search is not the same as "prior to conducting the search, determining relevant resources from a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered in the unified search entry interface." Determining relevant resources is done before a search; whereas, data mining the results of a search must necessarily be done after the search.

Remarks accompanying the rejection of Claim 20 state that Kincaid et al. discloses "determining at least one relevant resource from a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered in the unified search entry interface." As with

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Claim 1, the language has been revised. Kincaid et al. does not teach "prior to conducting the unified search, determining at least one relevant resource. . . ." Instead, Kincaid et al. teaches using multiple search engines and data mining the results of the search engines, whereas the present invention sorts search resources before the search begins.

<u>Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 20-26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Based on Li et al.</u>

Remarks accompanying the rejection of Claim 1 state that Li et al. discloses a method for "determining at least one relevant resource from a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered in a unified search entry interface." While applicants respectfully disagree, as noted above, this language has been revised. Li et al. does not teach "prior to conducting the search, determining relevant resources. . . ." Rather, Li et al. teaches using fuzzy logic to combine the results of different types of search criteria. Combining search criteria and combining the results of search criteria is not the same as "prior to conducting the search, determining at least one relevant resource from a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered in the unified search entry interface."

Remarks accompanying the rejection of Claim 20 state that Li et al. discloses "determining at least one relevant resource from a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered in the unified search entry interface." While applicants respectfully disagree, as noted above, this language has been revised. As discussed in the above paragraph, Li et al. does not teach "prior to conducting the unified search, determining relevant resources. . . ." Instead, Li et al. teaches using fuzzy logic to combine the results of different types of search criteria.

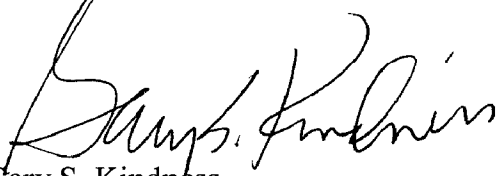<div align="center">CONCLUSION</div>

Since clearly none of the cited and applied references teach the subject matter of Claims 1 and 20, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 20 are allowable, as are

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Claims 2-9 and 21-26, which depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 and 20, respectively.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims remaining in this application are allowable. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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